

first suggestion from anybody, to see the best side of it, to appreciate first and to criticise after. It is often a mere habit we get into of seeing the weak side of a proposition first, and then gradually finding out there was more in it of good, and beauty, and excellence (as the case may be) than we had at first perceived. It is so discouraging if one makes a plan, or proposes a course of action, to have cold water thrown on it: so damaging for its first reception to be adverse, whereas, if one had had a little sympathy about it at first and criticism after, one could bear the latter so much better—and no after sympathy or co-operation seems to make up for the first damping words on our efforts or our enthusiasm!

One thing in regard to living with others also dawned upon me rather late in life, and I note with a pleasant appreciation the result of my few days' visit to Scale How, that it is *not* often a shortcoming of the young in the present day, and I need therefore hardly dwell upon it: it is that one ought always to try and bear one's part, to fill one's place in the social circle,—first and foremost in our home-life, where I doubt if we all of us, always, take as much pains as we might to make others happy by those little acts, those few words, which are so much yet which seem so little. To be a sympathetic listener is as much needed as to be a good talker. Often, I think, this hanging back and reticence in the young arises from modesty, and from a want of realization in the young that their elders do care to hear their views on the topics under discussion. A very distinguished Oxford tutor once complained to me of the want of conversational power in some young University women he had met, saying "They don't even ask questions!" But in your happy little circle this constraint and deadness does not find a place, and I only note it down as one of the things to be lamented which existed in my own young days.

I have tried with some reluctance to carry out your wish, dear Miss Mason, but I feel very strongly it is but a poor contribution, and was hardly worth the writing down. Still you see I have caught the impulse which rules in your midst to follow out every wish, spoken or unspoken, of the Mother who reigns so happily over her "Bairns," and I hope she will graciously accept the little offering in the spirit it is rendered.

Yours with grateful regard,

EMMA WINKWORTH.

EDITORIAL.

MY DEAR FELLOW-STUDENTS,

At the end of November I spent two or three days at Ambleside, and so had a chance of talking over many things with Miss Mason and the present students.

Miss Mason sends her love and New Year wishes to all members of our Association; she would have written herself, but is far from strong now, and is not allowed to do more work than is absolutely necessary.

She asks me to say, with her love, that she considers that those who forego their membership with the Association in some measure lapse in their loyalty to the House of Education and its founder.

The present seniors are most enthusiastic students, and I hope they will bring much new life into our Association. All who are leaving at Christmas have already joined.

We had a discussion on the subject of the subscriptions, and came to the conclusion that it would be better to make them payable in December than in June, as the out-going students leave at Christmas; and it causes much confusion if some pay in December and some in June. This year, will all present students send 1/6 to their Committee Members in June, to complete their subscription for 1899, then begin afresh next December with the regular annual subscription of 3/-?

I have been asked by two or three of the Committee to urge upon members the punctual payment of subscriptions; if members have to be reminded each year, it entails much work and expense on the Committee which might be avoided if each would take her own part.

The present students are very anxious that we should try to arrange a General Students' Meeting. It has been suggested that the meeting should be held at Ambleside next Easter. It certainly would be delightful to meet there, but, looking at it from a business point of view, I think it would be more practicable and more helpful to arrange a meeting during the time of the Conference. Those of us who have attended the Conferences can bear testimony

to the enormous benefit derived from them. It seems to me that it is the students who, of all people, need constant stimulus; it is they who are most constantly engaged in propagating P.N.E.U. thought, and who are, therefore, making most frequent calls upon their resources. I am sure that most of the parents of our children would be willing to let us attend these meetings; they would see that it is to the interest of their children that the teachers should keep as much as possible in touch with P.N.E.U. thought.

The Ambleside Easter meeting might be arranged in addition to this, and would be most enjoyable. I have visions of Ambleside holiday courses to be carried out on P.N.E.U. lines, but these visions seem yet very faint and very distant.

Will those who find that they can attend the P.N.E.U. Annual Meeting write to their Committee Members as soon as possible? then we can make arrangements beforehand for our Students' Meeting; also will those who could go to Ambleside at Easter send in their names.

A good suggestion was made by the seniors, that is, that one student from each year should write a short paper on her impression of the leading idea during her year's training, and we should thus, as it were, trace the gradual development of ideas in the course of time; this would prove both interesting and instructive to all.

I have been asked if it would be possible to have ties made in the Ambleside colours, to match the hat band; on making inquiries, I find that we could have diagonally-striped, long, silk ties made at 1/4 or 1/6 each, according to the number ordered. Will any ex-students who care to have them let me know at once, as I have to pay for all made, and do not wish to have a large number left on hand. I wish all could have been with me at Ambleside, and had their enthusiasm re-kindled at the fountain head.

A small meeting of the students was held in London, on July 16th; about fourteen were present. We agreed that it would be well to send to our Magazine notices of any such small gatherings. As will be seen by Mrs. Franklin's letter opportunities of such meetings are to be given to us. I hope all within reach of London will avail themselves of Mrs. Franklin's kind offer. It is most desirable that we should get to know students of other years than our own, as there is great danger of cliquishness in an Association such as ours. We are not part of a "year," but of one large undivided body.

Each Committee Member has now as full a list of the names and addresses of Members as it is possible to get; copies of such lists can be obtained from the Committee.

As Editor, I wish to draw special attention to the two papers on the personal experiences of the writers; these, I think, are the papers that we need for our Magazine. It is by experience we learn ourselves, and through our experiences we may help others.

Most of you will have heard of our scheme for getting up a House of Education stall at a bazaar which is to be held in Manchester next November in aid of the Gentlewomen's Employment Association. This Association has been established to help poor gentlewomen. One of its chief features is a loan and training fund. Already the Association has lent the whole or a part of the fees to seven Ambleside students, myself amongst the number. These loans have to be repaid within a certain time after the completion of the training, when the money is again lent to other applicants. I have undertaken to furnish a small stall at the bazaar, and am very anxious that we should amongst us get together £120 in money or work, *i.e.* enough to pay the fees of one student. This would mean an average of £1 from each of us. To some this, I know, would be impossible, but there are others who would be able to send more. I feel sure that the parents of our children would be very willing to help if they were asked. This seems to me a practical way of showing our appreciation of the training we have received. I should suggest that the work done by students themselves should be characteristic of Ambleside, and I should like all handicrafts represented.

I have had most encouraging letters from those to whom I have written on the subject, and I ask you all for your hearty support, so that the House of Education stall may be a credit to us.

If anyone wishes to know any further particulars, I shall be delighted to answer any questions. Letters addressed either to Alford, Lincolnshire, or to Hornby Castle, Bedale, Yorkshire, will always reach me.

With all good wishes for a very happy and prosperous New Year,

I remain, yours very sincerely,

EMILY LANPHIER.